

The Planet Patrol



Lesson 1:	Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Seeing things around you in a new way
Objective:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The students will be able to define reduce, reuse, recycle • The students will be able to understand that they can reuse materials and reduce the amount of waste that is produced.
Materials:	Index cards Markers Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle symbol Black garbage bag or inexpensive new garbage can filled with a variety of items such as jars, bottles, plastics, bags, paper products, cans, organic matter, egg cartons, plastic milk bottles, popsicle sticks, cardboard tubes, plastic straws, broken crayons, old greeting cards, etc. “Environmental Awareness” sign Student recycle symbol
Book/Video	Video - George Shrinks #109: “Lost and Found Art” SYNOPSIS: When George inadvertently allows the garbage men to haul Mom's newest creation - a found art sculpture of epic proportions - off to the dump, he, Dad and Becky must retrieve it, piece by piece. They chase the parts of the sculpture through the dump's recycling center - learning about the benefits of conservation as they go - until they finally get them all back. Then it's up to Mom to put the sculpture back together - this time even better than before.
Websites:	Gominyc (a store in New York City that sells items that have been created by everyday items that might be thrown away.) http://www.gominyc.com/
Activity:	<p>Place the Environmental Awareness sign out for students to see. Have students use the index cards to write down words or phrases that come to mind about this phrase. Students should brainstorm as many concepts as they can. Place the cards around the sign. When finished have the whole group begin to sort the index cards into categories such as Air, Waste and Recycling, Ecosystems, Energy, and Water and Conservation. Create a large concept map of students' knowledge. Leave displayed during the unit.</p> <p>Explain to students that today they will begin exploring the world of environmental awareness. They will begin to increase their knowledge and awareness toward issues that impact our Earth. As a final project, the group will create a plan to implement for environmental awareness.</p>

Today's focus will be investigating the "Waste and Recycling" category of environmental awareness. Show students the 3 R's (reduce, recycle and reuse) symbol. Discuss the meaning of the symbol. Explain that today's emphasis will be on **reuse**.

Show students the trash bag. Dump the contents of the bag on the floor. Ask students what **usually** happens to these things. Select a few items and discuss ways to **reuse** them, such as a gallon milk jug as a watering can. Explain to students that they will select an item to take home so that they can determine a way to reuse it in a creative way.

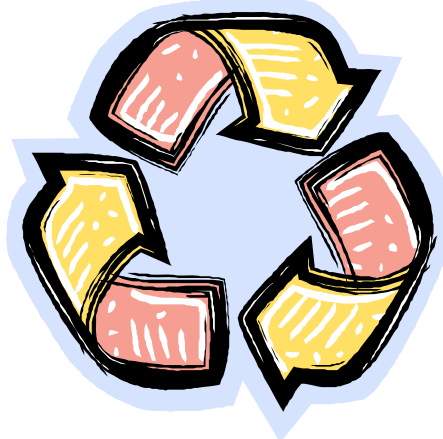
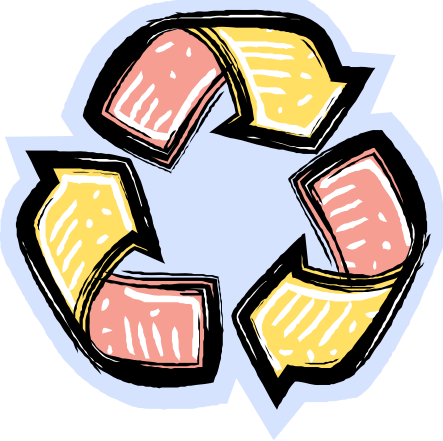
Explain to students that they are going to watch a video called, George Shrinks: "Lost and Found Art". Read synopsis.

Optional:

Journal Writing

Have students decorate the first page of their journal.

Give each student a recycle symbol. Have them write the words around the arrows, cut it out and glue in their journal. Have them write about what they learned for the day.



Environmental



Awareness



Dear Parents,

Today we looked at a variety of items that most people throw away. We learned about the 3 R's, (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) with an emphasis on reuse. Our goal today was to encourage children to care for and respect their environment by teaching them how to take common household items and change them into creative and useful things.

Your child has selected an item to reuse. With your child, brainstorm ways to reuse this item. The item needs to be functional. After you have made your brainstorming list select one of the ideas and create the new item. Remember, this is about reusing. Find items around the house to add to the new creation.

Be creative and have fun!

Brainstorming List

You will **reuse** the back of this letter to create a plaque to stand with the new creation.

On the top line give your creation a name.

In the box describe why you chose to make this creation.

Fold on the heavy black lines so that the plaque will stand.



Created by: _____

Reason behind creation:

